Government have agreed to help the States in meeting the naxalite menace which has created great disturbance in the States on a large scale and what kind of assistance has been provided so far to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Available reports do not indicate that Madhya Pradesh is seriously affected by Left Wing extremism. However, there are certain pockets of Left Wing influence in the districts bordering Andhra Pradesh. The Government, is, however, aware of the increased extremist activities in Andhra Pradesh. Since the maintenance of law and order in the primary concern of the State Government, the concerned State Governments are taking appropriate measures to tackle the situation. The Central Government is sharing information regarding the activities of the extremists with the State Governments on a regular basis. In addition, deployment of paramilitary forces, provision of training facilities for State police personnel, improved wireless communication facilities and better weapons are being provided as per the requirements to the concerned State Governments subject to availability.

Amount received by Madhya Pradesh under wasteland development programme

864. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government had received a sum of Rs. 13 crores from the Union Government under wasteland development programme;

(b) if so, what are the schemes that were undertaken by the State Government on this account and how much was spent out of the amount and how much still remain to be spent on this amount; and

(c) what were the wasteland areas improved under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) During first four years of the 7th Plan, Rs. 12.13 crores were allocated to Madhya Pradesh for afforestation programmes by National Wastelands Development Board, under the two schemes (i) Rural Fuelwood Plantation and (ii) Decentralised Peoples Nurseries. An amount of Rs. 7.86 crores has been spent so far.

(c) So far, 72,733 hectare of afforestation has been done under these two schemes.

Increase in India's Trade Deficit

865. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit during the first four months of the current financial year is at a higher level in comparison to the same period last year,

(b) if so, what is the total icrease in trade deficit and what were the main reasons therefor, and to what extent it is higher; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) According to provisional figures India's trade deficit during the first four months of the current financial year amounted to Rs. 2618.19 crores as compared to Rs. 2113.94 crores during the same period last year

thereby showing an increase of Rs. 504.25 crores. Main reasons for the increase in imports is the higher imports of items like Petroleum and Petroleum products, Fertilizers, Edible Oil, Non-ferrous Metals, Iron and Steel, Precious & Semi-Precious stones, Project goods, Organic and Inorganic chemicals etc., which are essential for domestic consumption or export production.

(c) A series of initiatives have been taken to promote exports. These are designed to generate surpluses for exports, to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make exports profitable. Simultaneously, efforts are being made to effect efficient import substitution, particularly in the area of bulk imports, to reduce the trade deficit.

Incidents of Bomb blasts reported from various parts of the country

866. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the month of September, 1988 a number of incidents of bomb blasts were reported from various parts of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the number of persons killed/injured as a result thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is given in the attached statement. (*See* below)

(c) Various steps like colletcion of intelligence, search of suspicious persons, mobile patrolling, 'Nakabandis', surveillance at likely places visited by suspected persons and deployment of armed pickets at vulnerable places and strategic points, haye been adopted by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Statement

ASSAM: During September, 1988, 6 incidents of bomb throwing/explosions took place at Samthaibar (September 5), Kokrajhar (September 7), Sapkhowa (September 6), Doomdooma (September 8), Dakhin (Hopgur) (September 11) and Tezpur (September 13). In these incidents, a bus, a petrol tanker and a truck were among the targets. In incidents at Chowkibazar, Tezpur (September 13), a bomb exploded inside a shop and one of the 5 injured in the incident, succumber to injuries.

BIHAR: During the month, two explosions took place in Bihar. On September 21, a minor incident of explosion of a cracker took place without any casualities at Mahnwar and Lalganj (Dist Vaishali) during Muniipal election. In the second incident which took place at Dhaurani, P. S. Mokama, Dist. Patna, on September 29, 1988, two persons are killed when 8 bombs which were being manufactured by them exploded prematurely.

DELHI: In an incident of bomb explosion in a bus at Shahdra Bus Terminal on September 12, 1988, one person was killed and 19 others were injured.

GUJARAT: An explosion occured at a railway crossing near Sabarmati Railway Station on September 3, 1988, but none in the train was injured, nor was the track damaged. 5 persosns standing nearby were injured.

JAMMU & KASHMIR: Three incidents of explosions took place in the state at Badarwah (September 2) and Reasi (September 17/18—2). 3